United Nations S/2004/522

Security Council

Distr.: General
29 June 2004

Original: English

Letter dated 29 June 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward herewith a letter from H.E. Mr. Brian Cowen, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ireland and President of the Council of the European Union, concerning the intention of the European Union to launch an EU mission on termination by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in December 2004 of the Stabilization Force (SFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina (see annex), and would be most grateful if you could arrange for its early circulation.

(*Signed*) Richard **Ryan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 29 June 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Letter dated 29 June 2004 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ireland and President of the Council of the European Union to the President of the Security Council

The European Union intends to launch an EU mission, including a military component, following the decision by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to terminate the Stabilization Force (SFOR), from December 2004 on the assumption that this mission will have full authority to fulfil the role specified in Annexes 1-A and 2 of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and to contribute to the safe and secure environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Union would be grateful if you would inform the Security Council of this intention so that the Security Council can be in a position to welcome the EU's intention to launch the mission described above, which would be conducted in close coordination with the Office of the High Representative and NATO ensuring a seamless transition between SFOR and the EU mission.

The Union would also welcome the Council being in a position to determine that the status-of-forces agreements currently contained in Appendix B to Annex 1-A of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina would apply provisionally in respect of the EU-led military operation (EUFOR), in anticipation of the concurrence of the parties to those agreements to that effect.

I request that the present letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Brian **Cowen** T.D.
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ireland
President of the Council of the European Union